

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-9 of the specification with the following replacement version thereof. No new matter is introduced by these changes.

The present invention is related to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/557,480, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,970,462, titled, “A Method for High Speed Packet Classification,” which was filed on April 24, 2000, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/072,824, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,154,888, titled “Method for Classifying Packets Using Multi-Class Structures” which was filed on February 8, 2002, and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/170,896, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,236,493, titled, “Incremental Compilation for Classification and Filtering Rules” which was filed on June 13, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 27 to page 3, line 11 of the specification with the following replacement version thereof. No new matter is introduced by these changes

Another approach implements a technique whereby packets are classified using a predetermined number of lookup operations, such as described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/557,480, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,970,462, titled, “A Method for High Speed Packet Classification” filed on April 24, 2000, by Andrew McRae and hereinafter referred to as the ““480 application.” This technique involves dividing a packet’s header into sections and applying the sections to a fixed hierarchy of lookup tables to determine an outcome such as, e.g., a first matching rule that applies to the packet. The lookup tables are associated with equivalence sets that represent all possible combinations of matching rules for all values of the packet header sections. The sections of the packet are applied to a first level of lookup tables in the lookup table hierarchy to select entries in the first level tables that are associated with the packet. The contents of the selected entries are, in turn, applied to a second level of tables to select entries whose contents are applied to a third level and so on. Eventually, an entry in a final level table is selected and the matching rule associated with the packet is determined from the results of the selected entry final table entry.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 19-30 of the specification with the following replacement version thereof. No new matter is introduced by these changes

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A technique similar to the ‘480 application that utilizes system resources more efficiently is described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/170,896, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,236,493, titled, “Incremental Compilation for Classification and Filtering Rules” filed on June 13, 2002 and hereinafter referred to as the “‘896 application.” Like the ‘480 application, the ‘896 application employs a packet classifying technique that that uses a fixed hierarchical arrangement of lookup tables containing a first level and a series of successive levels to classify packets in a fixed number of lookup operations. The first level lookup tables are pre-generated. The successive level lookup tables are generated on a demand basis, i.e., when needed to classify a packet. The technique conserves valuable intermediate node resources, such as memory and computing resources, as table entries are calculated when needed meaning unlike the technique described in the ‘480 application where table entries calculated whether they are actually used or not.

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